

Chapter VIII.

Kánara Survey Details, 1882.

Land
Administration.
Bombay Survey.
Results.

SUB-DIVISION.	TOTAL VILLAGES.	SETTLED VILLAGES.	OCCUPIED AREA.		ASSESSMENT.		INCREASE PER CENT.
			Before Survey.	Under Survey.	Before Survey.	Under Survey.	
<i>Coast.</i>							
Kārwār	61	61	...	32,019	£. 4967	10,704	115.30
Ankola and Kumta ...	218	218	...	61,467	14,493	19,760	36.34
Honávar	142	87	...	16,808	6187	6969	12.68
<i>Upland.</i>							
Supa	271	243	...	59,862	...	9080	...
Yellápur	173	173	32,079	44,262	5708	9298	63.08
Sirai	295	201	29,715	44,607	7503	10,567	40.35
Total ...	1160	933	...	257,025	...	66,878	...

Land Tenures.
Holdings.

Before the introduction of the survey settlement, and still in unsettled villages, holdings or *vargs* are entered in the Government accounts either as *muli* that is permanent or as *geni* that is rented. This distinction properly applied only to land in the old province of Kánara, that is, in the lands to the south of the Gangávali river; but under British rule the terms have come to be used over the whole district.

The proper meaning of *varg* is account, corresponding to *kháta* in settled districts, with this difference that if a *vargdár* takes up fresh land from Government, or by agreement or purchase obtains the transfer of a portion of another *varg* the additional land is not included in the original *varg* but a new *varg* is entered in the accounts. But at an early stage of British rule *varg* came to be used as synonymous with holding or estate, and each *varg* has lately been known by the name of some person who held it at a former time, retaining also its original number. Occasionally *vargs* have been subdivided and new *vargs* formed under new names, but this has not been the rule. Generally there were separate *vargs* for each village, but *vargs* comprising lands in different villages are not unknown.¹ Within the village the plots belonging to a *varg* are scattered in all directions and never could be identified by any one but the owner and perhaps the village accountant, and as there were no boundary marks and no record of area, there was a remarkable facility for enlarging the holding without incurring additional assessment.

The meaning of the word *muli* is disputed. Some would connect it with the Sanskrit *maulya* meaning price; those who do so assert that *muli* holdings were originally bought from the government. This seems to have been Major, afterwards Sir Thomas, Munro's opinion. In a letter to the President and Members of the Madras Board of Revenue, dated 31st May 1800, describing the revenue administration of Kánara under former governments, Munro says 'When a proprietor alienated land for a certain rent for ever he either received a price for it, or he received no price for it or he paid a sum of money to the person to whom the land was transferred. Which of these modes was adopted depended on the

¹ Munro, 4th May 1800; Mr. Blane, 20th September 1848.

circumstances of the parties and the nature of the land ; but in each of the three cases the tenant was the same, and the tenant was called tenant by purchase. When the government disposed of lands which had reverted to it by failure of heirs, it followed the practice of individuals. It sold the land almost always for a lump payment or *nazarána* ; it sometimes gave the land free of charge ; but it never paid money, and it seldom or never advanced money to the new tenants or owners. In this passage the words tenant by purchase appear to be intended as a translation of *mulgenigár*, a class of tenant described below, and the whole statement seems to be founded on the assumption that *mul* means price. Former governments granted the *muli* right to lands by means of instruments called *mulpattás*, and these documents show that a payment called *nazarána* or *kanike* was made. This has led Major Munro to state that the lands were sold for a *nazarána*. But the word *nazarána* does not denote the consideration which forms part of a sale. In the cases in question it would rather mean a fee paid for the issue of an order, probably of a somewhat similar nature, though perhaps differently applied, to stamp duty. Besides it is well known, that *mul* does not mean price but root, and the more probable signification of *muli* is permanent. The lands referred to in the *mulpattás* were granted for ever subject to the payment of the assessment. Even the non-payment of the revenue did not absolutely deprive the holder of his right. Munro says : ' If he absconded with balances standing against him, the land was transferred to another person ; but if he or his heir returned at ever so distant a period, the land was restored on either of them paying a reasonable compensation for the balance and for such extra expenses as might have been incurred on account of improvements.' This right was not continued under the British Government. Mr Blane says : ' It was not well established, but it is stipulated in some permanent leases or *mulpattás* granted at the beginning of British rule, that if a descendant of a former permanent holder or *mulgár* appeared within twelve months and paid a reasonable compensation for the balance due, the land should be made over to him.' The hereditary right, says Mr. Elphinstone, together with the power to alienate, constituted the private property in land which was by many supposed to be peculiar to Kánara and Malabár ; but *mirásdárs* in the Deccan appear to have had similar rights.³

It is asserted, and it is not improbable, that originally all the cultivated lands in Kánara were held on *muli* or permanent right, and that each holder possessed a title-deed in the shape of a *mulpattia*, although few authentic documents of that nature granted by former governments are now forthcoming. During the latter part of the eighteenth century, under Haidar and Tipu, the country was partially depopulated and the lands deserted, and from this and other causes some lands formerly cultivated reverted to Government.³

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¹ Report, 31st May 1800, paragraph 23.

² Report on the Territories conquered from the Peshwa, 25th October 1819.

³ Munro's Letter to Collectors, 9th December 1800, paragraph 6.

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At first, under British rule, the practice was to offer these waste lands annually to the highest bidder.¹ They were then called *sarkár geni* or rented from Government and the cultivators were mere tenants-at-will holding directly from Government. The system of giving out these waste lands from year to year was not found to work well, and in 1807 the Madras Government sanctioned the alienation of these lands to respectable persons who would undertake to cultivate them and pay assessment on the same terms as the original holders.² This alienation was carried out by means of permanent leases or *mulpattás*, which probably were similar to those granted by former governments, but no *nazarána* or handing-over-fee was taken. In this way, in the language of the district, many lands were converted from *sarkár-geni* or government leases into *muli* or permanent holdings. The process did not go on so speedily as was deemed desirable. In 1834, Mr. Viveash, the Principal Collector, after stating that people who desired *mulpattás* or permanent deeds would get them on application, gave an assurance that those who had paid the full assessment would be treated as *mulgárs* or permanent holders, so long as they paid the full assessment, even though they had not obtained *mulpattás* and though the land was not entered as *muli*.³ From that time all real distinction between *geni* and *muli vargs* ceased, but the two names remained in the accounts, and are still used where the survey settlement has not been introduced.

Hoságame Lands.

The waste or deserted lands above referred to were also called *kulnasht*, that is lands which had lost their occupant. Arable land, which, at least within the memory of man, had never before been cultivated, was called *rekhnasht* or land which had lost the record of its assessment. It was given out with or without *mulpattás*, and entered in the accounts as *hoságame* that is new accretion or cultivation. Such lands were not necessarily formed into separate holdings or *vargs*; they were more frequently entered as authorized additions to existing holdings. The name *hoságame* is still in use, but there is no real difference between the tenure of *hoságame* lands and of other lands.

Alienations.

The term Alienation seems to have been used by the Kánara officers of the Madras Government in the sense of giving lands for permanent cultivation subject to the payment of the assessment. It has been decided, in one of a large number of suits instituted to oppose the introduction of the survey settlement, that the use of the word alienation did not imply a permanent settlement of the assessment or any remission of revenue, total or partial. Such remissions are few and insignificant. Almost every temple in Kánara has land attached to it, which is entered in the name of the temple deity, but the full assessment is paid for the land, and there is no difference between the temple land and a private holding.

¹ Board of Revenue to Government, 31st August 1807.

² Secretary of Government to Board of Revenue, 28th October 1807.

³ Vernacular Order, 24th October 1834.

Endowments in cash are paid to many temples in lieu of collections formerly made by the managers from private holdings under the name of *horadharm* or outside charity. These Mr. Read, who succeeded Colonel Munro as Collector, attached and added to the assessment of the holdings as items of revenue. For a few Roman Catholic churches and a few mosques a partial exemption from assessment is claimed, and at present allowed, but the titles have not yet been adjudicated. In some parts of the district *shetsandis*, or subordinate village officers, are allowed a remission of assessment on land held by them in lieu of cash payments; but cash payments are becoming the rule. The only other alienation of land revenue to be noticed is the remission of assessment allowed by the Bombay Government in 1870 during the lifetime of the widows of Busling Rája, a descendant of the *páligár* or chief of Bilgi on the lands previously held by him.

From what has been stated it will be seen that, although the names *mulgárs* or permanent holders and *genigárs* or renters have been kept, since 1834 there has been no real difference in the status of persons holding land directly under Government. Wherever the survey settlement has been introduced, so far as Government accounts are concerned, even the distinction of name has ceased, and the right of occupancy as defined in the Bombay Survey Act is the only recognized tenure under Government, except in the few cases where temporary cultivation is allowed. In the surveyed parts of the district, indeed throughout the whole district, the only real distinction is between occupants who cultivate and occupants who do not cultivate. In lowland Kánara cultivating occupants are probably more numerous than non-cultivating occupants but in other parts of the district by far the greater portion of the land is held by occupants who do not themselves cultivate. There are few people of any class who do not hold some land, as the purchase of land is almost the only mode of investing money known in the district; but in most places the bulk of the large landholders are of the Shenvi caste. In many cases these people are the descendants either of village accountants or of the relations of village accountants, officers who had every facility for enlarging their own holdings and allowing those in whom they were interested to enlarge theirs by encroaching on Government waste. Moreover these people formed the educated class of the community, and rapidly became the moneyed class and acted as village bankers. In course of time the lands of their debtors passed into their hands, and the debtors fell from the rank of occupants to that of tenants. Almost all the large landholders still unite moneylending to their other occupations. In upland Kánara the rule is for occupants to cultivate their own lands, but everywhere there are large landholders, and the process of the more ignorant cultivators being converted from occupants into tenants which is near completion in the lowland sub-divisions is also in operation in upland Kánara.

It remains to describe the rights of those who hold not directly from Government, but under a superior holder. Of these the highest are *mulgenigárs* or permanent lessees. In the minute of the

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*Non-cultivating
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Mulgenigárs.

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Mulgenigáras.

Mádras Board of Revenue recorded on the 5th of January 1818, their status is thus described: The *mulgenigáras* or permanent tenants of Kánara were a class of people unknown to Malabár, who, on condition of the payment of a specified invariable rent to the *muli* or landlord and his successors, obtained from him a perpetual grant of a certain portion of land to be held by them and their heirs for ever.¹ This right could not be sold by the *mulgenigár* or his heirs, but it might be mortgaged by them; and so long as the stipulated rent continued to be duly paid he and his descendants inherited this land like any other part of their hereditary property. The landlord and his heirs were precluded from raising the rent of the permanent lessee. It was, therefore, originally either higher than that procurable from temporary tenants, or it was fixed at the same or at a lower rate in consideration of a certain sum being paid as premium or purchase-money for the grant in perpetuity or as a favour conferred by the landlord on some of his dependents.² It amounted, in fact, to a permanent alienation of a certain portion of land by the landlord; for it never again lapsed to him or his descendants except on the failure of heirs to the permanent lessee. This class of people may therefore be considered subordinate landlords rather than tenants, especially as, though many of them cultivated their lands by hired labourers or slaves, others sub-rented them to *chúlgenigáras* or 'temporary tenants.' This description applies generally to the *mulgeni* tenure of the present day. In some cases the rent is fixed in produce; in other cases it is fixed in cash. A few *mulgeni* deeds belonging to the early part of the century have been found which stipulate that if the assessment is increased the lessee will pay the enhanced amount, but the majority contain no such provision, and one of the most difficult points arising out of the survey settlement results from the fact that the revised assessment exceeds the rent fixed in a *mulgeni* deed. Most of the *mulgeni* deeds executed since the survey began contain the stipulation that if the assessment is increased the lessee will pay the enhanced amount.

*Nadagi or
Ardheli.*

Another sub-tenure of a permanent or quasi-permanent nature is *nadagi* or *ardheli*. This tenure which applies only to garden lands prevails to a considerable extent on the coast, especially in Honávar and Kumta. The rent payable by the tenant is fixed generally at one-half of the produce, but it is sometimes fixed in other proportions and in a very few cases in cash. The occupant bears the expense of planting the trees, and the tenant bears the expense of rearing them. When full-grown trees are made over to a tenant, the tenure is called *sulgi*, and in this case the tenant receives one-third of the produce for his labour. The landlord in both cases pays the assessment. The lease is terminable at the will of the tenant, but he cannot be ousted by the over-holder, unless it is proved that the property has suffered from neglect. These tenures appear to be declining as they give rise to numerous disputes.

¹ These grants were always in writing, many of them have been lost.

² This was the more frequent practice.

The most frequent form of land mortgage in Kánara is mortgage with possession, called *bhogyádi adháv* or usufructuary mortgage. Until the mortgage is redeemed the mortgagee is exactly in the position of the landholder, and formerly the land was frequently entered in the accounts in the mortgagee's name.

The ordinary sub-tenancy is tenure-at-will or *chali geni*, and it is by tenants-at-will that almost all the large landholders' estates are cultivated. A yearly holder or *chálgenigár* may hold either under a permanent holder or *mulgár*, under a permanent tenant or *mulgenigár*, or under Government as the occupant of a lapsed permanent estate or *muli varg*. If the yearly lessee holds under an over-holder, his name is in no way recognized in the accounts. If an over-holder found his tenant in arrears, under the Madras Regulation he had power to attach his property and report the attachment to the Collector, who, at thirty days' notice, during which time the tenant could appeal, sold the property by auction and satisfied the claim. The tenant generally holds a written lease and gives an acceptance. The period for which the documents are executed is generally a year, but fresh documents are not executed every year; on the contrary it is the practice to cultivate for many successive years on the same lease. As a rule fresh documents are drawn up only when a change in the rent or some other circumstance makes a fresh deed necessary. The terms of the lease vary in different places. In Supa the rent is ordinarily fixed in money; elsewhere, except for garden land, it is almost always paid in grain. As regards garden assessment, Mr. Read, the Collector, wrote in 1814:¹ 'The general practice observed in lowland Kánara for assessing cocoanut, betelnut, and pepper produce is that for new cocoanut gardens a lease or *kaul* is demanded, securing possession to the cultivator until his young trees begin to bear, which is generally the case in their sixth year near the sea-coast and in their tenth year near the Sahyádris. The average assessment of about 12s. (Rs. 6) on each tree is then demanded on the tree instead of on the produce. The trees thenceforward continue to be charged every year by the village accountant, and no allowance is made for unfruitful years if it is supposed that the proprietor has the means of keeping up his garden, because in old gardens, while a few trees each year become unfruitful, their places are supplied by those beginning to bear. Another mode prevails, which has been continued during the Company's Government, of assessing the ground, not the trees, from the period of starting the garden at the average rent of the neighbouring rice-fields and demanding nothing more when the trees begin to bear. This is the prevailing usage between the Government and proprietor of whatever description; but that observed by the landlords is to grant their yearly tenants or *chálgenigárs* from one-fourth to one-third of the gross produce and to their permanent tenants or *mulgenigárs* one-half the gross produce, because the latter are bound to plant young trees in lieu of decayed ones and not to sell or transfer their right in the garden land to

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¹ Letters relating to Early Revenue Administration, 82, 83.

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any but their landlords. It is not customary to demand any additional assessment for a few betel or pepper vines intermixed with the cocoa-palms, because it is sufficiently known that they injure the productive powers of the trees they are suffered to embrace. Pepper and betelnut gardens are not assessed in any particular manner, but pay according to the quality of the rice-field soil of which they are formed. They are found near the foot of the Sahyádris and are almost all cultivated by the landlords themselves, most of whom are Haviḡ Bráhmans. When any of these gardens lapse to the Government they are rented at one-third the estimated gross produce, or, if that cannot be had, they are given away to the highest bidder. Hence it appears that the minute division of the gross produce of gardens in Malabár between the Government and the cultivator is not found in Kánara, where a specific tax on each tree or a fixed ground-rent is demanded without reference to the produce of either. It is conjectured that about two-thirds of the proprietors of gardens below the Sahyádris pay the land assessment and that the other one-third pay upon the trees. Before the introduction of the survey settlement, and still in unsettled villages, the tenants' rent was ordinarily calculated at double the Government assessment. Owing to the revision of the assessment this system is for the present at least not so common as it formerly was and the rent is fixed according to the nature of the soil and other circumstances. In some parts of the district, particularly in Honávar, an agreement to divide the produce, called *palu*, is common. The occupant provides the seed and sometimes the oxen and tools, and after deducting the seed with a small amount for interest, the balance is divided either equally or in proportions to which the occupant and tenant have agreed.

Wood-ash Tillage.

From time immemorial *kumri*, that is the raising of *rági* Eleusine corocana, by cutting and burning brushwood in the forests and sowing seed among the ashes, has been extensively carried on. It is believed that this forest tillage was never specifically allowed as a right, but only as a temporary privilege, and it cannot properly be called a land tenure. But in some estates or *vargs* there is an entry of *kumri* assessment, which is often called *shist* or standard assessment on account of *kumri korlayu*, that is a tax on the cutting of *kumri*; and on that ground and also because some permanent leases or *mulpattás* mention *kumri* assessment, not only a right to forest tillage but property over large tracts of forest-land have been claimed. Before 1822-23 the revenue from *kumri* was entered in the accounts under the head of *motarpha* or village taxes, but in that year it was directed to be credited to land revenue.¹ The system of assessing the tax varied in different villages. In some places it was fixed at so much for a couple, a man and a woman, or so much for a man alone; and in others according to the number of billhooks used in clearing the brushwood in which case it was always of the nature of a poll-tax. As there was no reason to grant the privilege to any but the wild tribes who knew no other means

¹ Minutes of Consultation, dated 11th October, 1822.

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of gaining a livelihood, it appears at first sight difficult to account for the entry of *kumri* assessment in the holdings of persons who had other regularly cultivated land. In 1858 Mr. Fisher wrote¹: There is little reason to doubt that the only difference between the government *kumri* cess, *sarkár kumri korlayu*, and the *kumri* cess paid by regular holders or *vargdárs* consisted in the government cess being levied direct from the *kumri* cutters while the holders' or *vargdárs* *kumri* cess was recovered by them from the *kumri* cutters who either cleared parts of the holders' land or were otherwise under his influence, on paying a specified sum as part of the demand on their estates. If this is so, the system of levying *kumri* assessment from regular landholders was probably adopted for the sake of convenience. When the country was less accessible than it now is, it would not be easy to levy a poll-tax from every *kumri* cutter and the adoption of the practice of using the regular holder, a man of influence in the neighbourhood, as a medium for collecting the tax is intelligible. The destructive nature of *kumri* cultivation attracted the attention of the Madras Board of Revenue, the Madras Government, and the Court of Directors. In 1848 Mr. Blane prohibited it in places from which timber could be conveniently exported or in which the reserved kinds of timber grew, and directed that those who claimed a right to cultivate *kumri*, because a *kumri* assessment was entered in their holdings or estates, should not be allowed to exercise the right in such places and that the assessment should be remitted. In other parts of the forest *kumri* was to be allowed only to an extent proportionate to the assessment. In 1858 the principle was adopted of settling the assessment with reference to the number of *kumri* cutters and allowing *dugni*, that is so much produce as represented double the *kumri* assessment entered in the holding or *varg*, to such holders as held estates which paid a *kumri* assessment.² In 1860 the Government entirely forbade *kumri* in holdings, and extended this order to holders of permanent leases or *mulpattás*.³ In unsettled villages the *kumri* assessment is still entered in the accounts, but the amount is always remitted.⁴ *Kumri* is now restricted within the narrowest possible limits. It is allowed only to those hillmen who at present have no other means of livelihood. The tax is fixed at 2s. (Rs. 1) the acre.

The revenue administration of the district is entrusted to an officer styled Collector on a yearly pay varying from £2160 to £2790 (Rs. 21,600 - Rs. 27,900). This officer, who is also the Chief Magistrate and the executive head of the district, is helped in his work of general supervision by a staff of three assistants, of whom two are covenanted servants and one is an uncovenanted servant of Government. The sanctioned yearly salaries of the covenanted assistants range from £600 to £1080 (Rs. 6000 - Rs. 10,800), and that of the uncovenanted assistant is £960 (Rs. 9600).

For fiscal and other administrative purposes the lands under the Collector's charge are distributed over eight sub-divisions. All

¹ Mr. Fisher, 91, 30th Aug. 1858 para. 63.² Mr. Fisher, 91, 30th Aug. 1858 para. 29.³ Proceedings, 23rd January 1860.⁴ Proceedings, 23rd October 1861.

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these are entrusted to the two covenanted assistants or assistant collectors. The fourth assistant styled the head-quarter or huzur deputy collector is entrusted with the supervision of the treasury. These officers are also assistant magistrates, and those of them who have revenue charge of portions of the district have, under the presidency of the Collector, the chief management of the different administrative bodies, local fund and municipal committees, within the limits of their revenue charges.

*Sub-Divisional
Officers.*

Under the supervision of the Collector and his assistants the revenue charge of each fiscal division of the district is placed in the hands of an officer styled *mámlatdár*. These officers, who are also entrusted with magisterial powers, have yearly salaries varying from £180 to £240 (Rs. 1800 - Rs. 2400). Three of the fiscal sub-divisions, Honávar Yellápur and Supa, contain each a petty division or *peta mahál* under the charge of an officer styled *máhalkari*, who, except that he has no treasury to superintend, exercises the revenue and magisterial powers generally entrusted to a *mámlatdár*. The yearly pay of the *máhalkaris* varies from £72 to £96 (Rs. 720 - Rs. 960).

Village Officers.

In revenue and police matters the charge of the 1257 Government villages is entrusted to 942 headmen, all of whom are stipendiary. Of these 198 headmen perform revenue duties only and 744 are entrusted with both revenue and police charges. The yearly pay of the headman depends on the amount of revenue derived from his village. It varies from 10s. to £11 4s. (Rs. 5 - Rs. 112) in settled villages, the average revenue receipts of a settled village amounting to £72 (Rs. 720); and from 1s. 1½d. to £12 (9 ans. - Rs. 120) in unsettled villages, the average revenue receipts of an unsettled village amounting to £88 2s. (Rs. 881). Of £2187 2s. ½d. (Rs. 21,871-0-4), the total yearly charge on account of village headmen, £1501 11s. 8½d. (Rs. 15,015-13-11) are debited to Land Revenue and £685 10s. 3½d. (Rs. 6855-2-5) to Police. No headmen are paid by grants of land.

To keep the village accounts, draw up statistics, and help the village headmen, there is a body of stipendiary village accountants or *shánbhogs*. These men number 239 in all or about one accountant to every five villages, each charge containing on an average 1765 inhabitants and yielding an average yearly revenue of £378 8s. (Rs. 3784). Their yearly salaries, which are paid in cash, amount in settled villages, on an average to £13 10s. (Rs. 135) and vary from £12 to £15 (Rs. 120 - Rs. 150); in unsettled villages they average £11 8s. (Rs. 114) and vary from £10 16s. to £12 (Rs. 108 - Rs. 120). They represent a total yearly charge of £3102 (Rs. 31,020). Besides the regular accountants an extra establishment of accountants is annually maintained to strengthen the regular staff pending the introduction of the survey settlement into the unsettled parts of the district. At present (1882) about five-eighths of the district have been surveyed and settled.

Village Servants.

Under the headmen and the village accountants are the village servants with a total strength of 492. These men are liable both for revenue and police duties. Most of them are Hindus. The total yearly grant for the support of this establishment amounts to

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£1995 12s. (Rs. 19,956), being £4 (Rs. 40) on an average to each man, or a cost to each village of £1 12s. (Rs. 16).

The yearly cost of the village establishments may be thus summarised: Headmen £2187 (Rs. 21,870), accountants £3102 (Rs. 31,020) and servants, £1996 (Rs. 19,960) making a total of £7285 (Rs. 72,850), equal to a charge of £5 16s. (Rs. 58) a village, or eight per cent of the entire land revenue of the district.

Season reports are available for the seventeen years ending 1881-82:

Season Reports.

In 1865-66 the rains were seasonable and favourable both to rice and garden crops. Fever, dysentery, and small-pox prevailed over most of the district; fever chiefly above and dysentery below the Sahyádris. The land revenue rose from £62,837 to £75,222; and the rupee price of rice fell from fourteen to seventeen pounds.

1865-66.

The season of 1866-67 was on the whole favourable. The rains began well; in September and in October the fall was scanty, but the failing crops were saved by an abundant supply in November. Public health was better than in previous years; cholera and fever declined, though fever was still prevalent in Yellápur and Supa. The land revenue fell from £75,222 to £60,772, and the rupee price of rice rose from seventeen to sixteen pounds.

1866-67.

In 1867-68 the rainfall was abundant and seasonable, the crops were richer and public health was better than in the previous year. The land revenue rose from £60,772 to £74,103; and the rupee price of rice fell from sixteen to twenty-one pounds.

1867-68.

In 1868-69 the rainfall was generally favourable, and the harvest fair. Public health continued to improve, but cattle disease was general, and very fatal. The land revenue rose from £74,103 to £74,946; and the rupee price of rice fell from twenty-one to twenty-two pounds.

1868-69.

In 1869-70 the early rainfall was scanty; and late rains in November and December, though abundant, were untimely and greatly damaged ripe rice and cotton and to a less extent injured Indian millet and gram. Fever was general and there were some cases of cholera, but public health on the whole was good. There was no great mortality among cattle. The land revenue fell from £74,946 to £72,231; and the rupee price of rice rose from twenty-two to seventeen pounds.

1869-70.

Except for rice, the season of 1870-71 was favourable. The fall to the end of August was good; in September the supply was scanty, and in October it was heavy enough to cause much injury to the rice. Public health was better than in the previous year. The chief forms of disease were fever, small-pox, and bowel complaints. Cattle disease also appeared in some places. The land revenue rose from £72,231 to £75,761, and the rupee price of rice fell from seventeen to twenty-five pounds.

1870-71.

In 1871-72 both above and below the Sahyádris the rainfall was moderate, especially in Supa and Yellápur. On the coast the rainfall was irregular. The only sub-division which received a full supply was Siddápur. The season was middling. Public health

1871-72.

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1872-73.

was good, and the amount of cattle disease was moderate. The land revenue rose from £75,761 to £80,921, and the rupee price of rice rose from twenty-five to twenty-four pounds.

The season of 1872-73 was favourable. In June and July the rainfall was good and timely. A heavy fall in August flooded the low rice lands and slightly injured the crops. But this was followed by regular and moderate rain and the harvest was better than it had been for ten years. Public health was good; fever and ague were on the decline. Cattle disease broke out in some sub-divisions. The land revenue rose from £80,921 to £81,549, and the rupee price of rice fell from twenty-four to twenty-six pounds.

1873-74.

The season of 1873-74 was moderate. The rainfall was at first good, but there was a long break in August, and though later on the season improved the harvest was light. Fever, small-pox, dysentery, and cattle disease prevailed throughout the year. The land revenue rose from £81,549 to £84,254, and the rupee price of rice remained unchanged at twenty-six pounds.

1874-75.

The season of 1874-75 was fair. The rains began in May and continued favourable till August. After August heavy rain damaged the low-lying rice crops. Fever, small-pox, and cholera were more or less prevalent. The land revenue rose from £84,254 to £89,643, and the rupee price of rice fell from twenty-six to twenty-eight pounds.

1875-76.

The season of 1875-76 was on the whole good. The rains began early in June, and were favourable, especially along the coast. Except in Supa, the crops were above the average. Fever and cattle disease prevailed throughout the district, small-pox in parts of Kumta, Honávar and Yellápur, and slight cholera in Kárwár, Supa and Yellápur. The land revenue fell from £89,643 to £83,387; and the rupee price of rice fell from twenty-eight to thirty pounds.

1876-77.

The season of 1876-77, one of the great famine years in the Bombay Karnáta and Maisur, was fair on the coast, indifferent in the centre of the district, and bad in the east bordering on Belgaum, Dhárwár, and Maisur. The rainfall began about the 10th of June and continued abundant till the end of July. In August it was short and in September and October it failed partially in some places and entirely in others. The failure was greatest in the eastern villages bordering on Belgaum, Dhárwár, and Maisur. On the coast the crops were comparatively good. A few miles along both sides of the Sahyádris they were below the average, and in the most eastern villages the crops either entirely or partially failed. As the late rain failed, the cold weather crops were generally poor, and during the hot season water and fodder were scarce. Fever prevailed throughout the district, but cattle disease and small-pox were less fatal than in the previous year. Except in August, September, and October cholera was general especially in the upland sub-divisions. The land revenue fell from £83,387 to £81,964, and the rupee price of rice rose from thirty to twenty-eight pounds.

1877-78.

The season of 1877-78, the second of the great famine years, was on the whole favourable. The rainfall began at the end of May

and in June was fair. In July and early August it failed, but, in the latter part of August and in September the fall was well-timed, and continued so heavy that in October some crops suffered from too much rain. Except in a few villages, the rice crops were good. Owing to the failure of rain in July, the garden produce was below the average; betelnuts did not yield more than half the average, and cardamoms and pepper almost entirely failed. Owing to the heavy rainfall in October, the cold weather crops were good. Deaths were about forty-five per cent more than during the previous year, partly owing to the excessive rain and partly to the extreme dearth and scantiness of grain. Both fever and cholera were more fatal than during the previous year; on the other hand there was less mortality among cattle. The land revenue fell from £81,964 to £81,214, and the rupee price of rice rose from twenty-eight to twenty-two pounds.

In 1878-79 the rainfall was the heaviest on record (132.89 inches) and the rice harvest was unusually fine. The gardens also profited, and except crops on low-lying lands which were sodden by excessive moisture the harvest was exceptionally good. The land revenue rose from £81,214 to £93,950, and the rupee price of rice rose from twenty-two to eighteen pounds.

The harvest of 1879-80 was below the average. Most of the early sowings were washed out by heavy rain and the later sowings were withered by a long spell of drought. In August and September the rainfall was good but hardly made up for the former losses. Good lands scarcely produced an average and the yield in the uplands was poor. Garden lands suffered little. The dry season crop sown in January and reaped in April was good; but the cold weather or *rabi* crop was poor. The land revenue fell from £93,950 to £85,760 and the rupee price of rice rose from eighteen to seventeen pounds.

In 1880-81 the regular rainfall in June and July was followed by a break which lasted from the second week in August to about the 10th of September; a timely fall of rain in September saved the crops, but in the uplands the harvest was scanty. The rice crop was up to the average; and the garden crops and sugarcane were good. The land revenue rose from £85,760 to £86,686, and the rupee price of rice fell from seventeen to twenty pounds.

In 1881-82, except in Sirsi, the rainfall was below the average, but on the coast it was sufficient and seasonable. The open high lands above the Sahyádris suffered from scanty rain, but in other parts the crops were good and the season was on the whole favourable. Public health was good; there was no cholera and less fever than usual. In the south there were some cases of small-pox but only eleven proved fatal. The land revenue rose from £86,686 to £100,283, and the rupee price of rice fell from twenty to twenty-four pounds.

Chapter VIII.

Land
Administration.Season Reports.
1877-78.

1878-79.

1879-80.

1880-81.

1881-82.